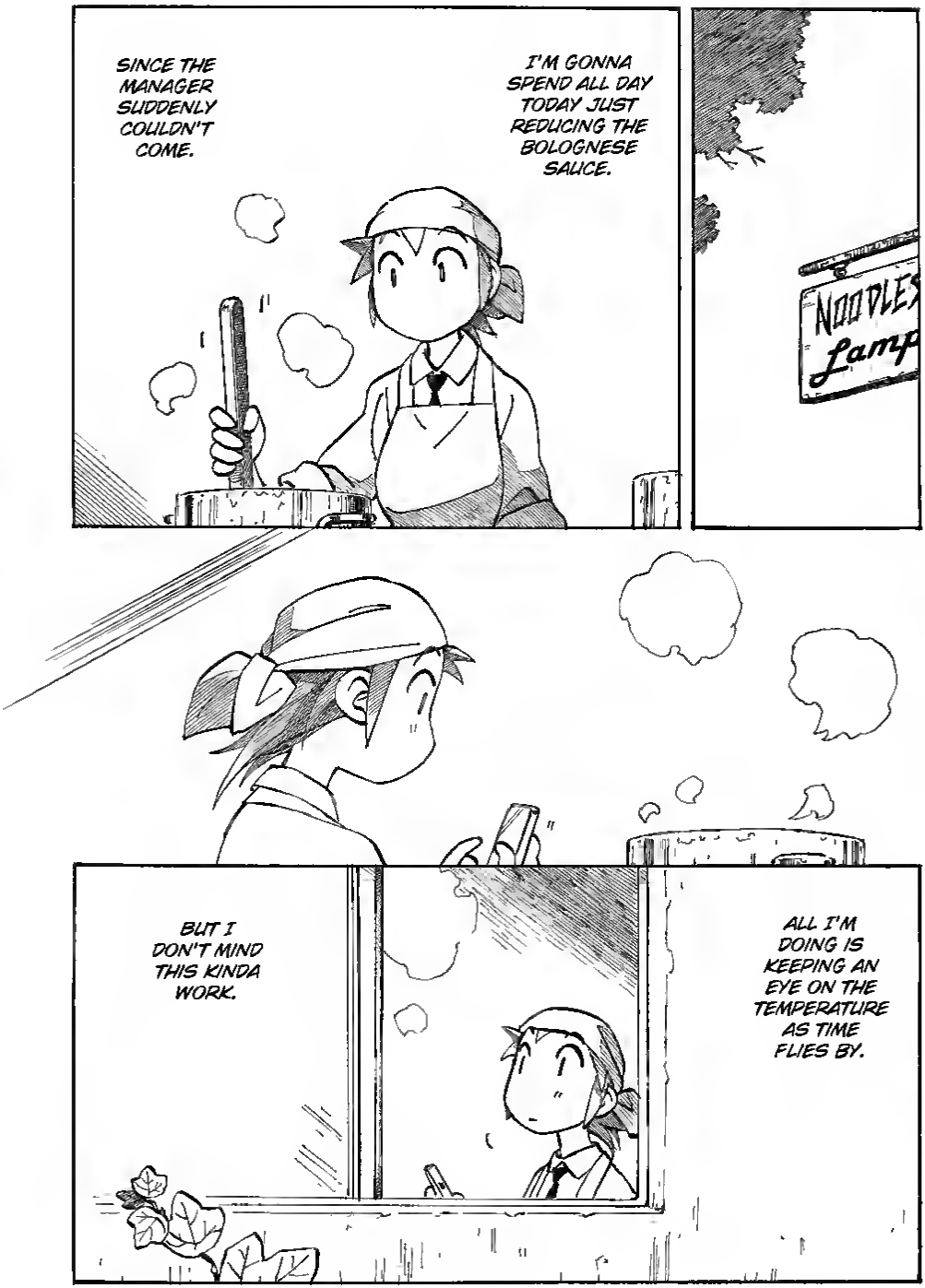
Kotonoba Drive

hitoshi ashinano presents "kotonoba-drive"

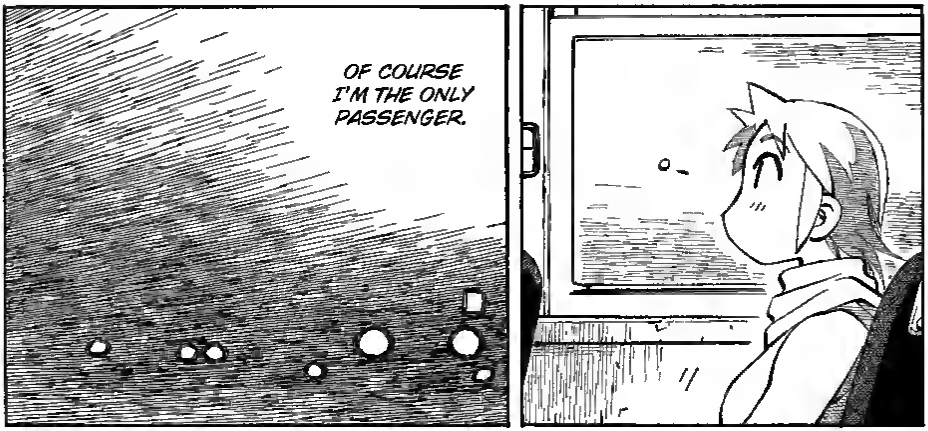
route 22

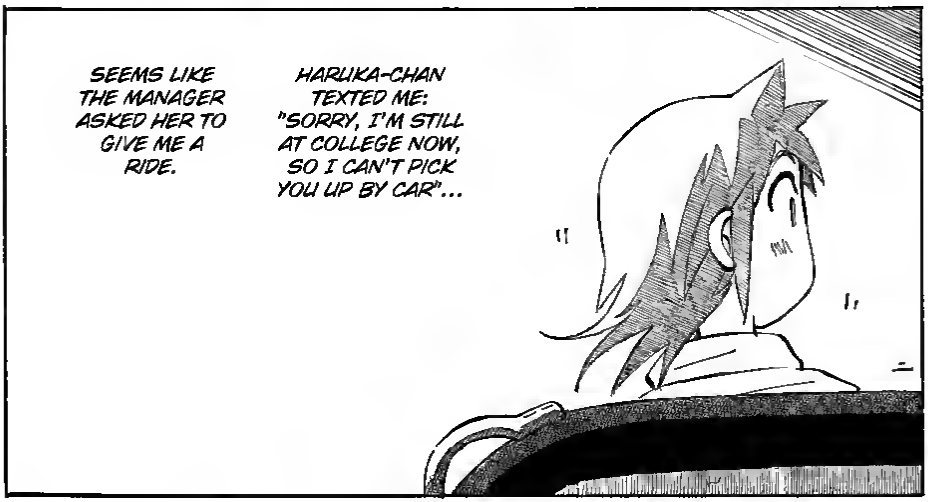
[THE TWO COFFEES]


SINCE THE MANAGER SUDDENLY COULDN'T COME.
I'M GONNA SPEND ALL DAY TODAY JUST REDUCING THE BOLOGNESE SAUCE.
NOODLES
Lamp
BUT I DON'T MIND THIS KINDA WORK.
ALL I'M DOING IS KEEPING AN EYE ON THE TEMPERATURE AS TIME FLIES BY.

Simmering away since early morning, making the store's original sauce!

LOCK
BRRRR!
I TAKE THE BUS HOME.
NOT MANY BUS ROUTES RUN BY MY HOUSE THOUGH, AND IT'S ALREADY ALMOST TIME FOR THE LAST BUS.
PSSSH
THE MORNINGS AND NIGHTS ARE FAR TOO COLD, SO I'VE STOPPED COMING BY BIKE.


OF COURSE I'M THE ONLY PASSENGER.


SEEMS LIKE THE MANAGER ASKED HER TO GIVE ME A RIDE.
HARUKA-CHAN TEXTED ME: "SORRY, I'M STILL AT COLLEGE NOW, SO I CAN'T PICK YOU UP BY CAR"...

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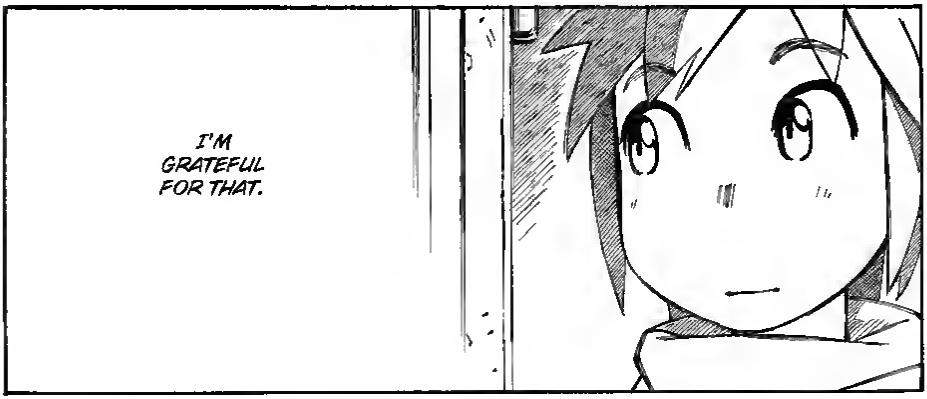
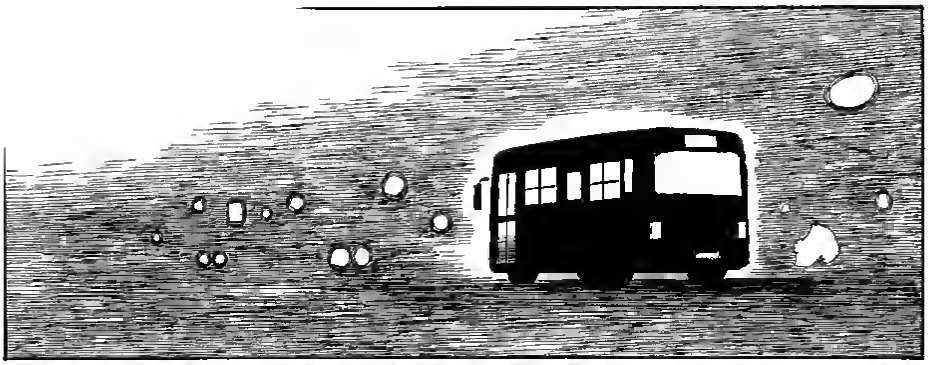
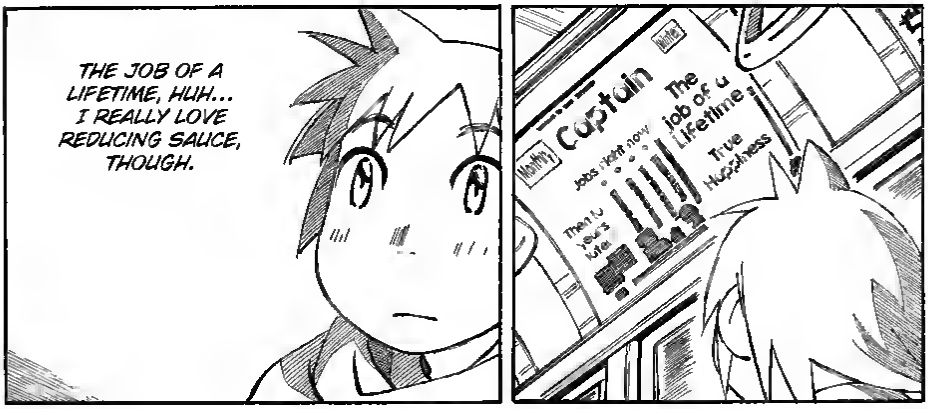
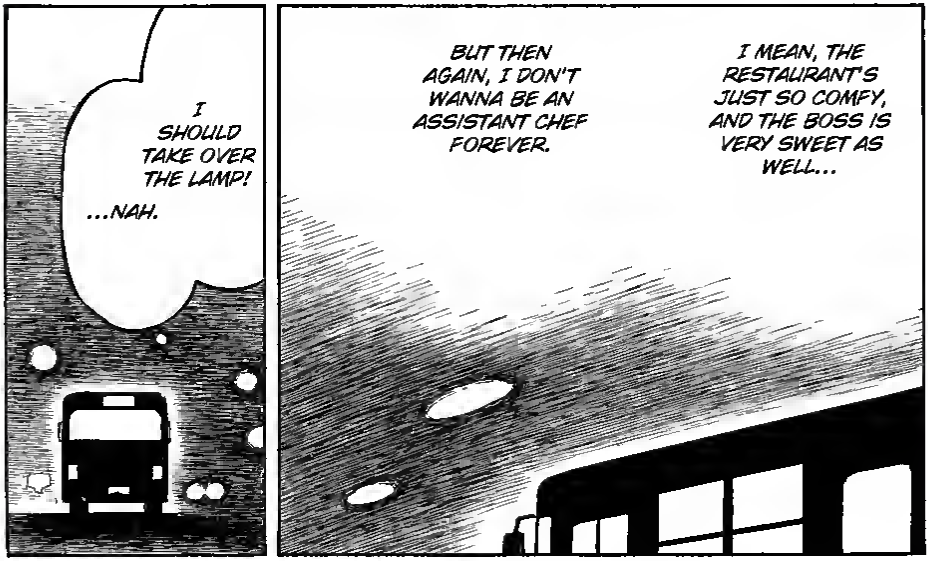
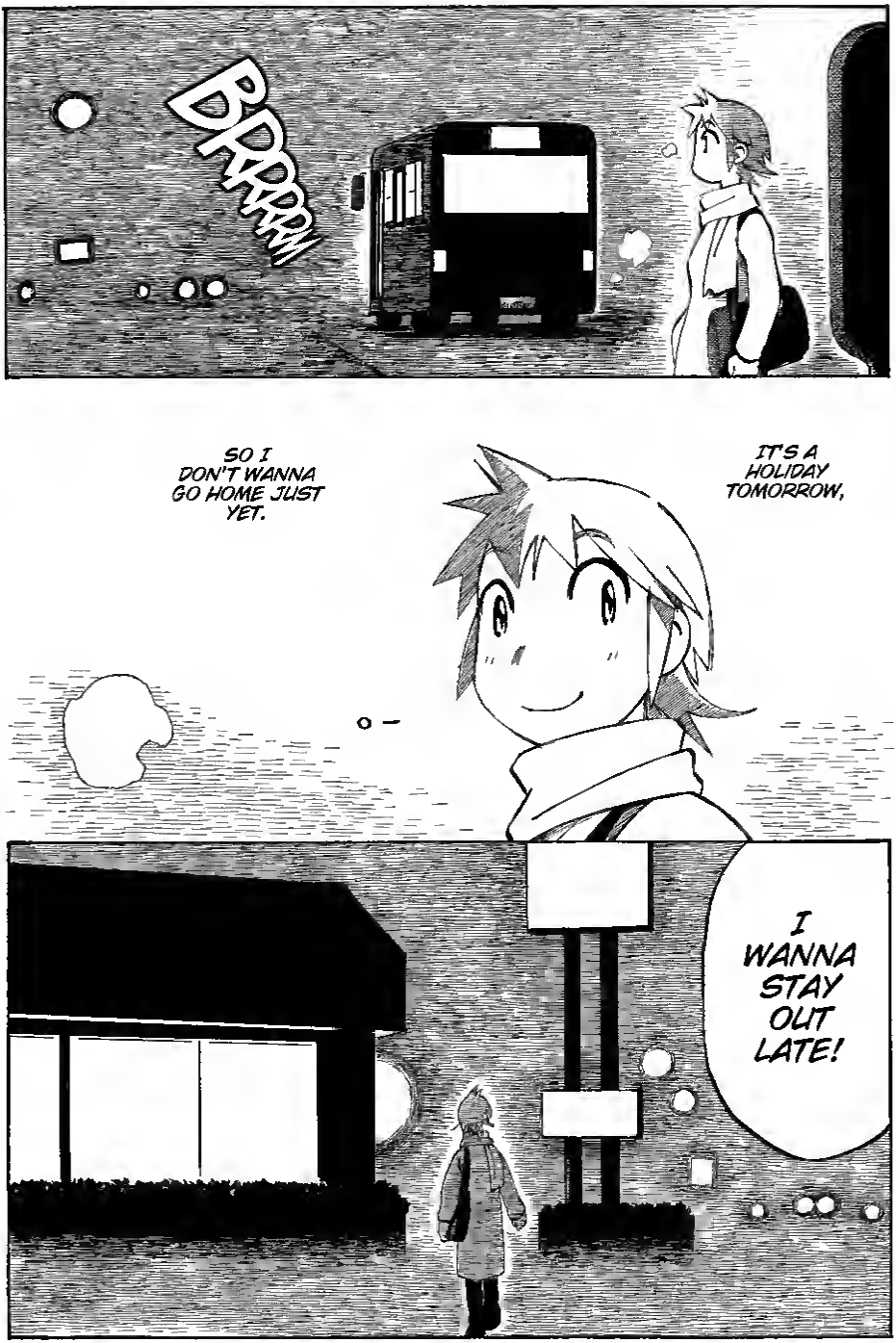
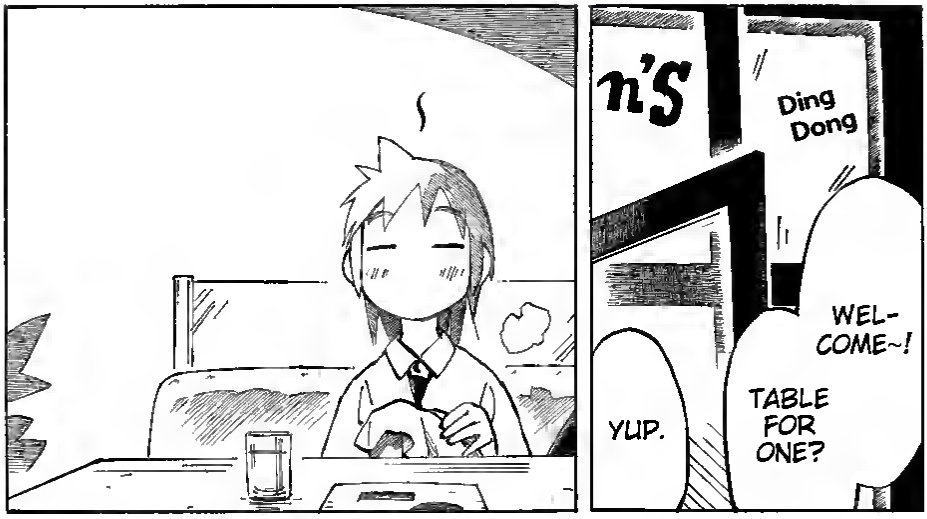

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT.

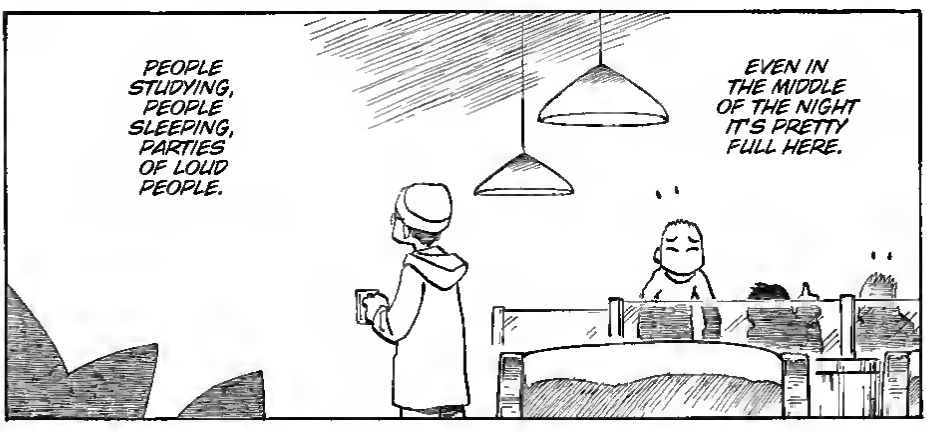



THE JOB OF A LIFETIME, HUH... I REALLY LOVE REDUCING SAUCE, THOUGH.
Captain
The job of a lifetime
True Happiness


I SHOULD TAKE OVER THE LAMP!
...NAH.
BUT THEN AGAIN, I DON'T WANNA BE AN ASSISTANT CHEF FOREVER.
I MEAN, THE RESTAURANT'S JUST SO COMFY, AND THE BOSS IS VERY SWEET AS WELL...


BRRRRM
IT'S A HOLIDAY TOMORROW,
SO I DON'T WANNA GO HOME JUST YET.
I WANNA STAY OUT LATE!


n'S
Ding Dong
WEL-COME~!
TABLE FOR ONE?
YUP.


PEOPLE STUDYING, PEOPLE SLEEPING, PARTIES OF LOUD PEOPLE.
EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IT'S PRETTY FULL HERE.

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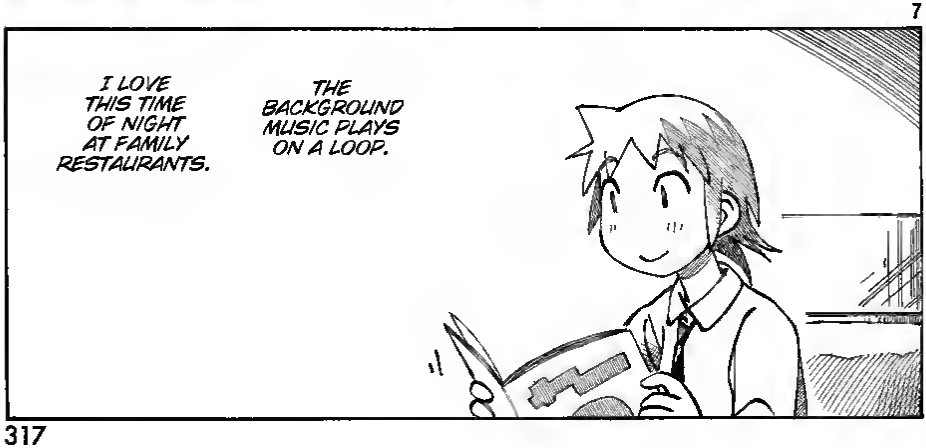
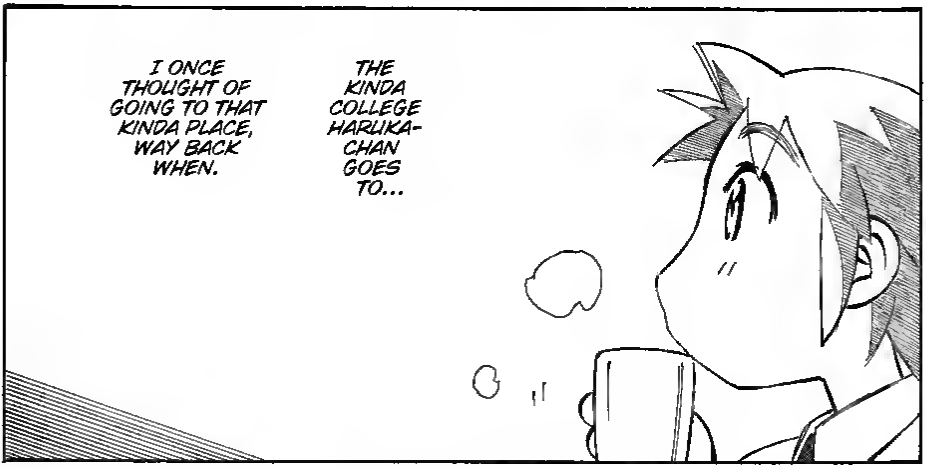

I LOVE THIS TIME OF NIGHT AT FAMILY RESTAURANTS.
THE BACKGROUND MUSIC PLAYS ON A LOOP.


I ONCE THOUGHT OF GOING TO THAT KINDA PLACE, WAY BACK WHEN.
THE KINDA COLLEGE HARUKA-CHAN GOES TO...

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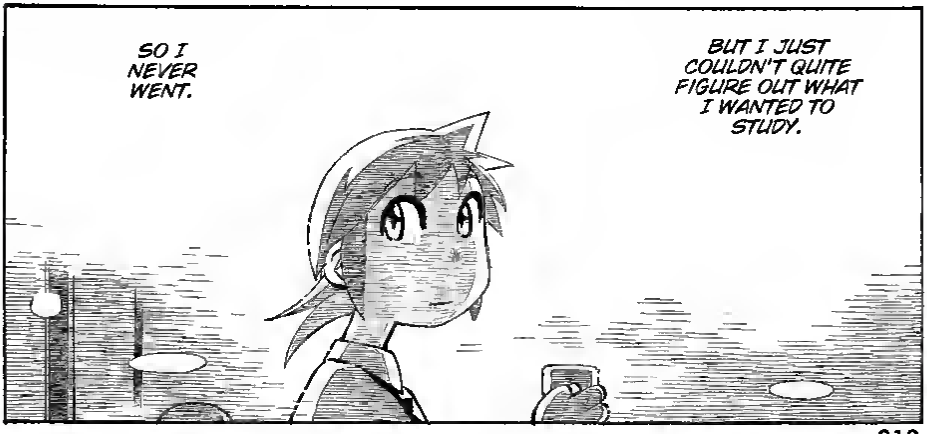
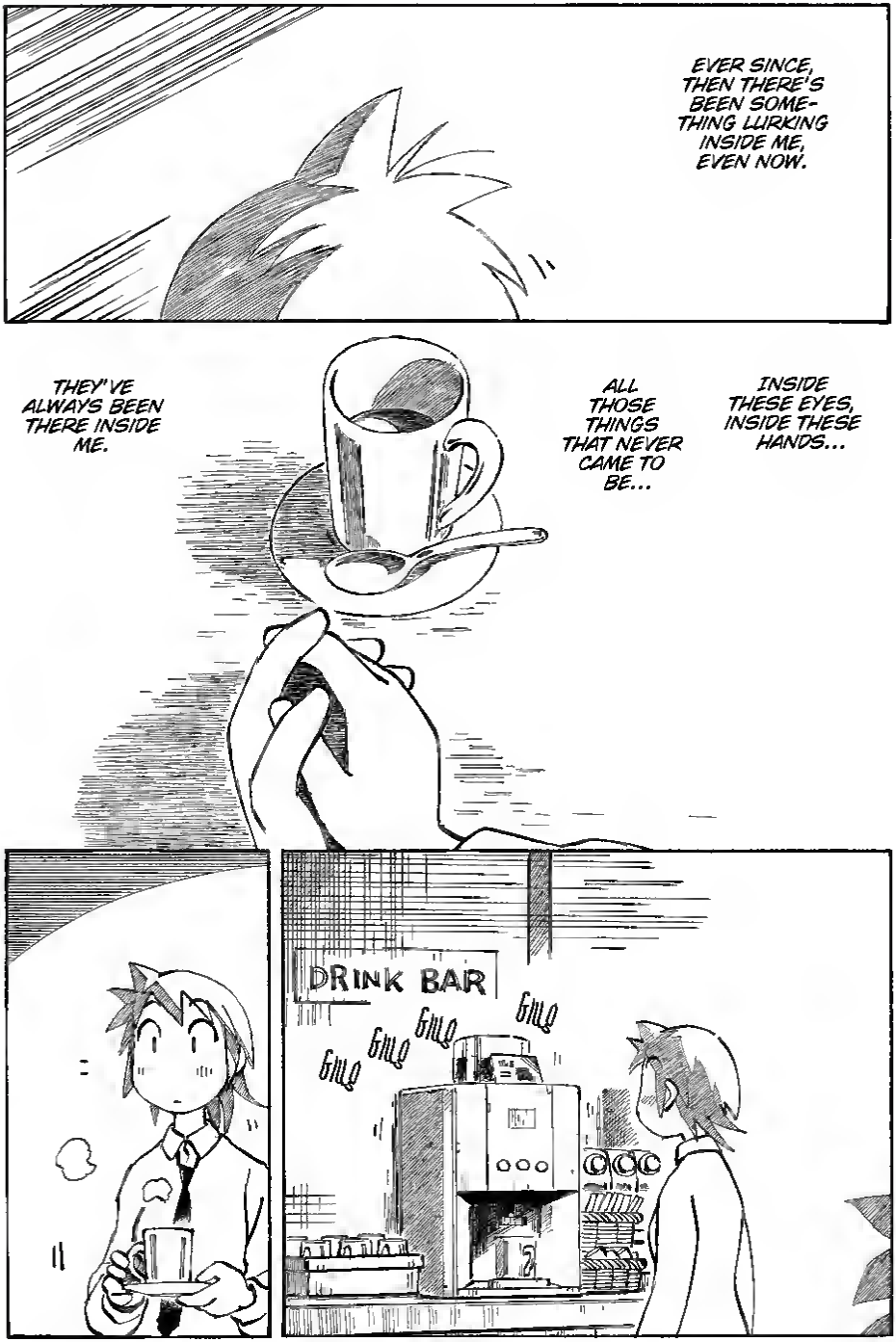
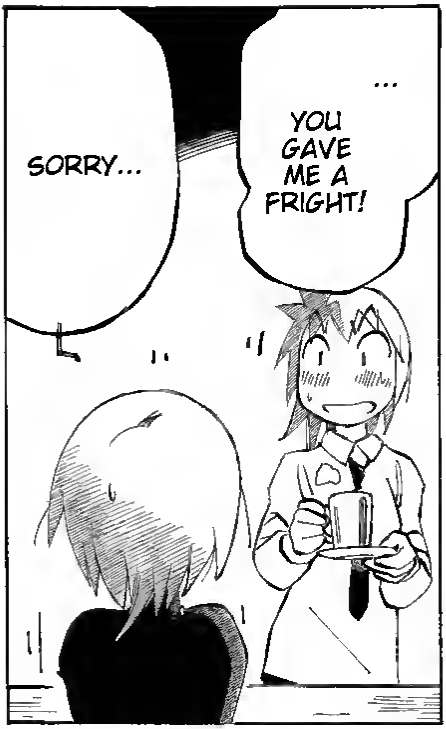
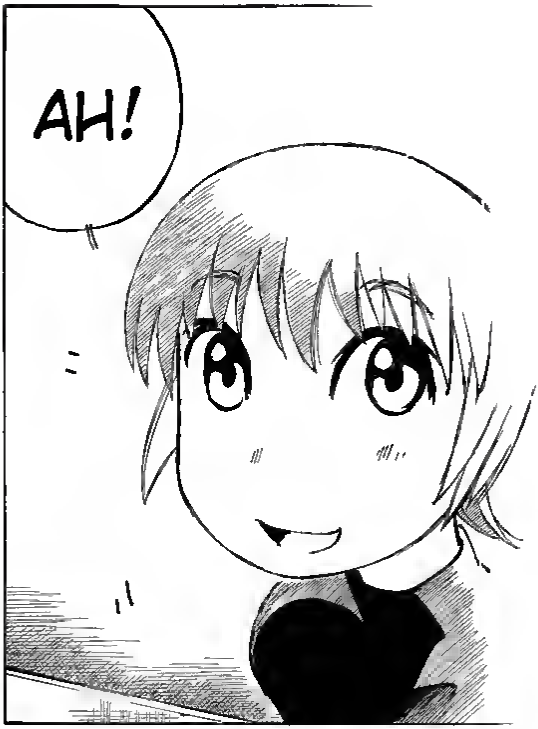

SO I NEVER WENT.
BUT I JUST COULDN'T QUITE FIGURE OUT WHAT I WANTED TO STUDY.


EVER SINCE, THEN THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING LURKING INSIDE ME, EVEN NOW.
THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE INSIDE ME.
ALL THOSE THINGS THAT NEVER CAME TO BE...
INSIDE THESE EYES, INSIDE THESE HANDS...
DRINK BAR
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP


SORRY...
...
YOU GAVE ME A FRIGHT!


AH!

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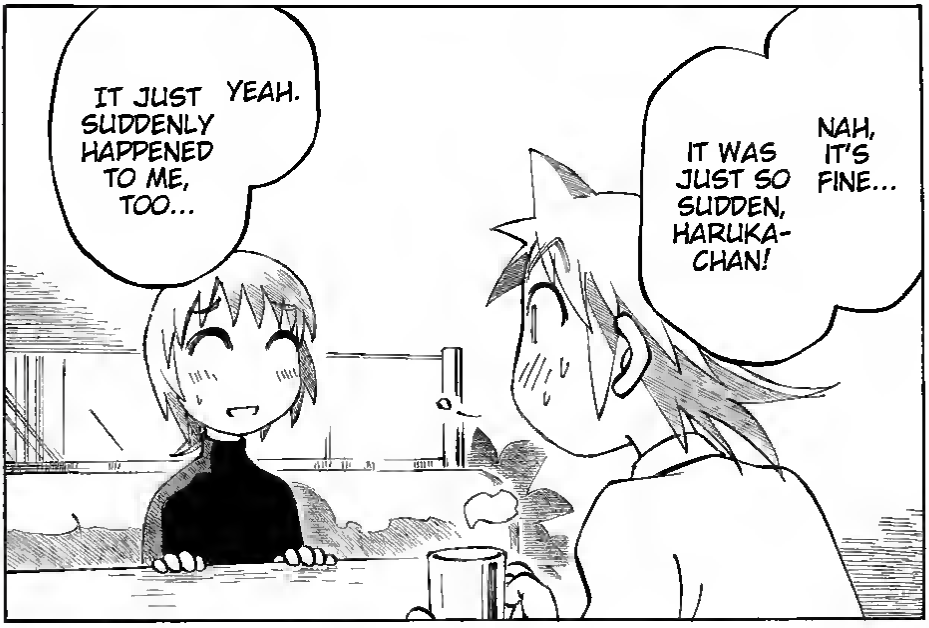
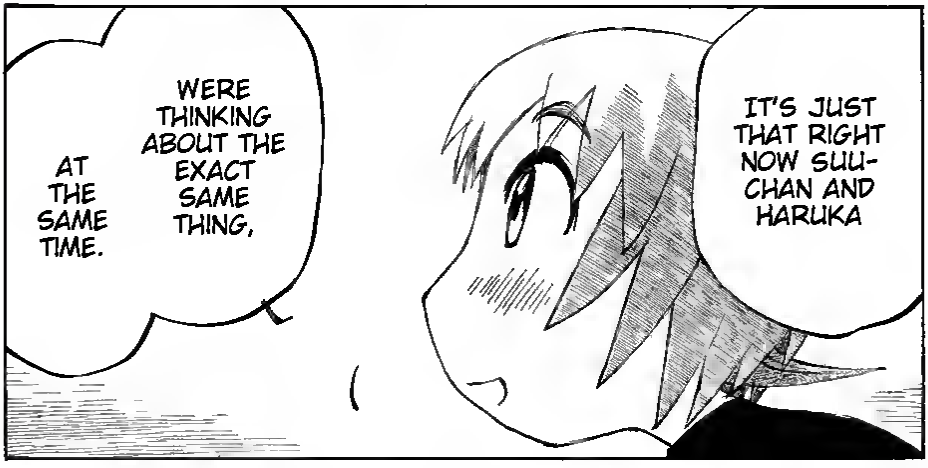

IT JUST SUDDENLY HAPPENED TO ME, TOO...
YEAH.
IT WAS JUST SO SUDDEN, HARUKA-CHAN!
NAH, IT'S FINE...

AH, THAT'S TRUE ENOUGH.
BUT I THOUGHT THE RULE WAS THAT BIG HARUKA-CHAN COMES FIRST AND THEN YOU APPEAR THROUGH HER?


AT THE SAME TIME.
WERE THINKING ABOUT THE EXACT SAME THING,
IT'S JUST THAT RIGHT NOW SUU-CHAN AND HARUKA

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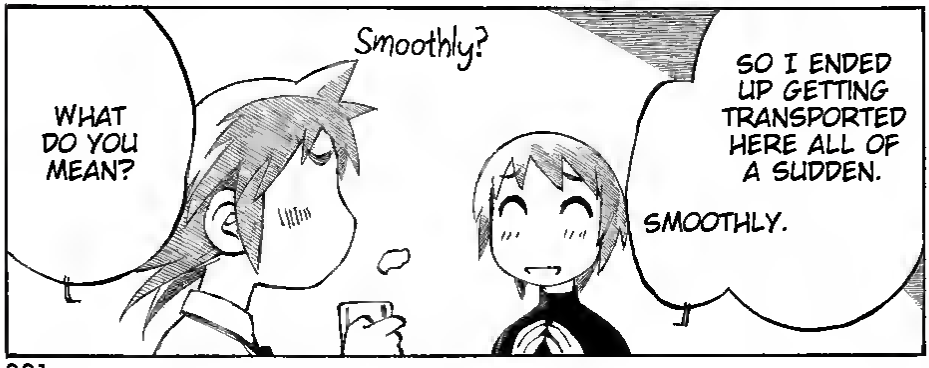
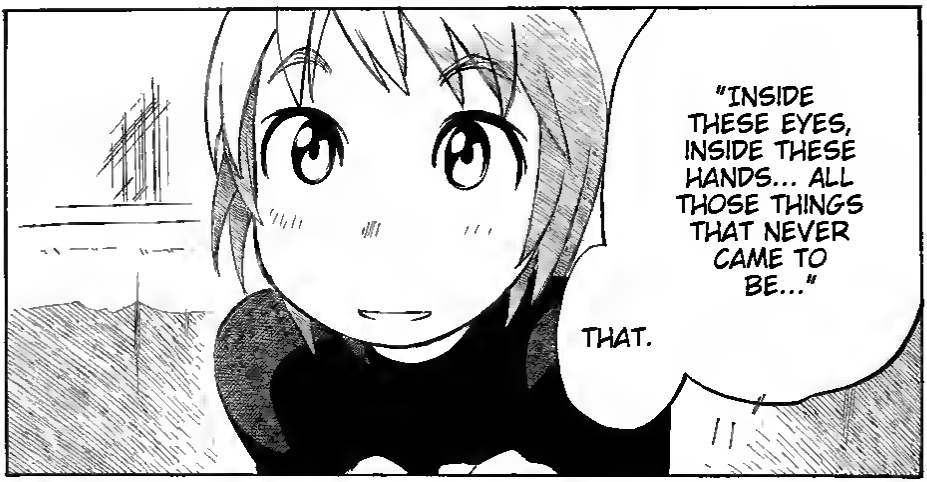

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Smoothly?
SO I ENDED UP GETTING TRANSPORTED HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN.
SMOOTHLY.


"INSIDE THESE EYES, INSIDE THESE HANDS... ALL THOSE THINGS THAT NEVER CAME TO BE..."
THAT.

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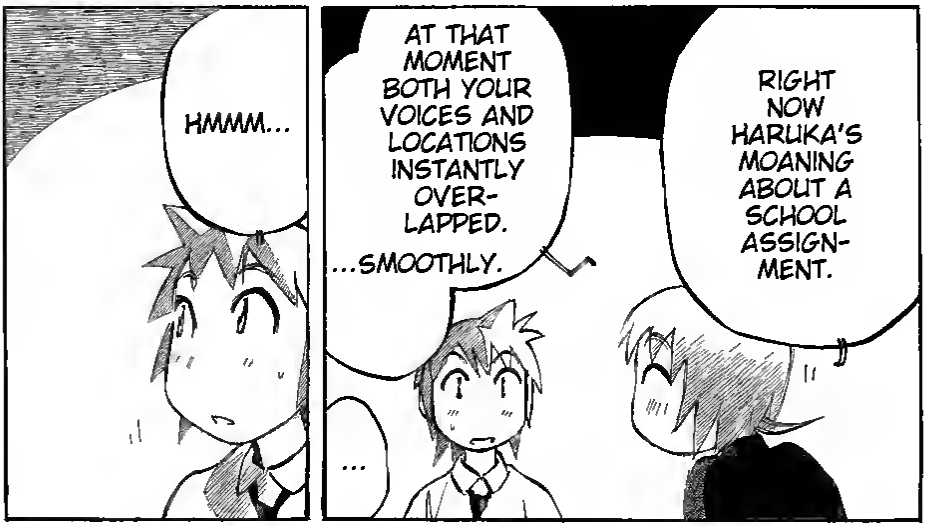
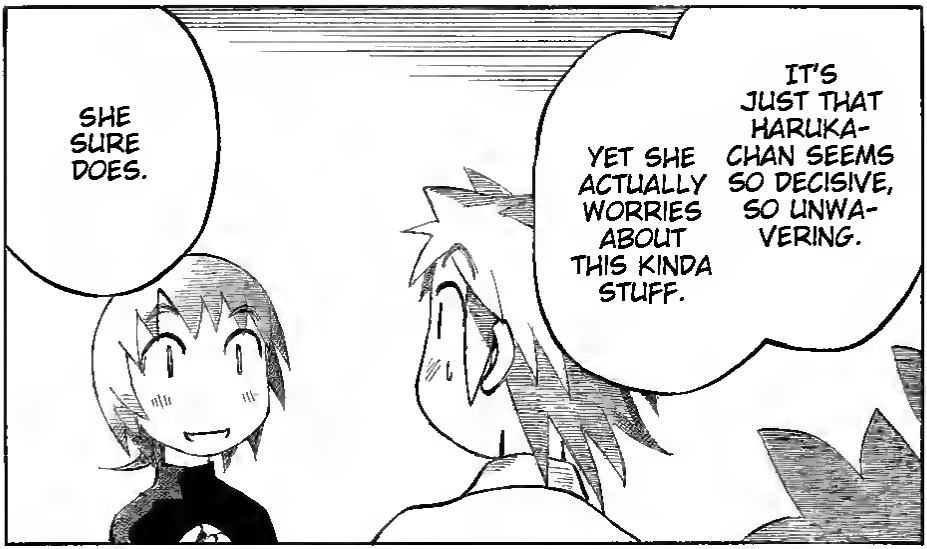
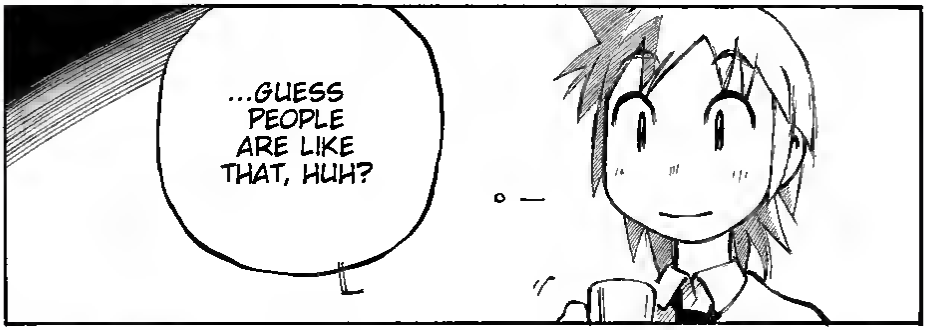

HMMM...
AT THAT MOMENT BOTH YOUR VOICES AND LOCATIONS INSTANTLY OVER-LAPPED.
...SMOOTHLY.
...
RIGHT NOW HARUKA'S MOANING ABOUT A SCHOOL ASSIGN-MENT.


IT'S JUST THAT HARUKA-CHAN SEEMS SO DECISIVE, SO UNWAVERING.
YET SHE ACTUALLY WORRIES ABOUT THIS KINDA STUFF.
SHE SURE DOES.


...GUESS PEOPLE ARE LIKE THAT, HUH?

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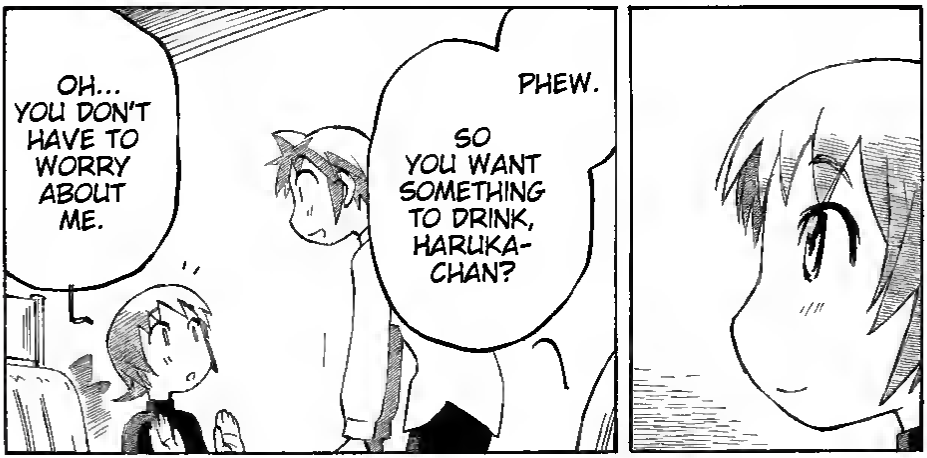
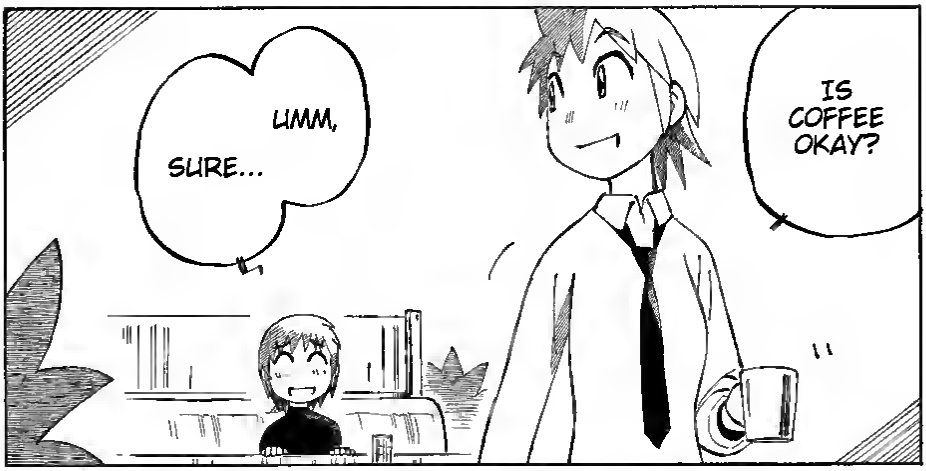
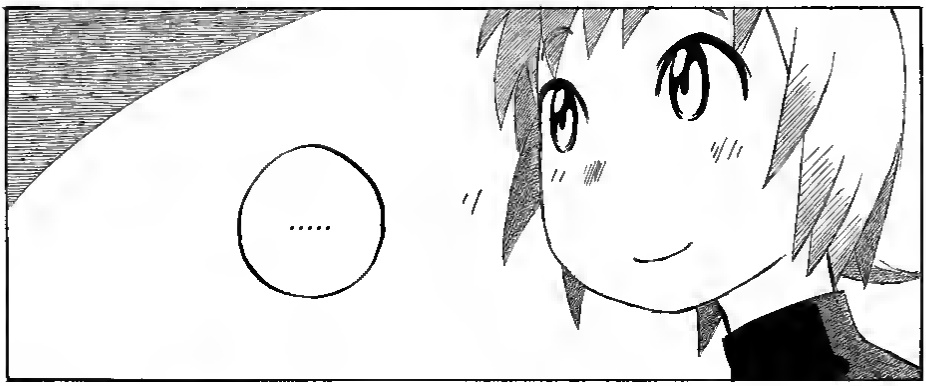

PHEW.
SO YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK, HARUKA-CHAN?
OH... YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.


IS COFFEE OKAY?
UMM, SURE...


.....

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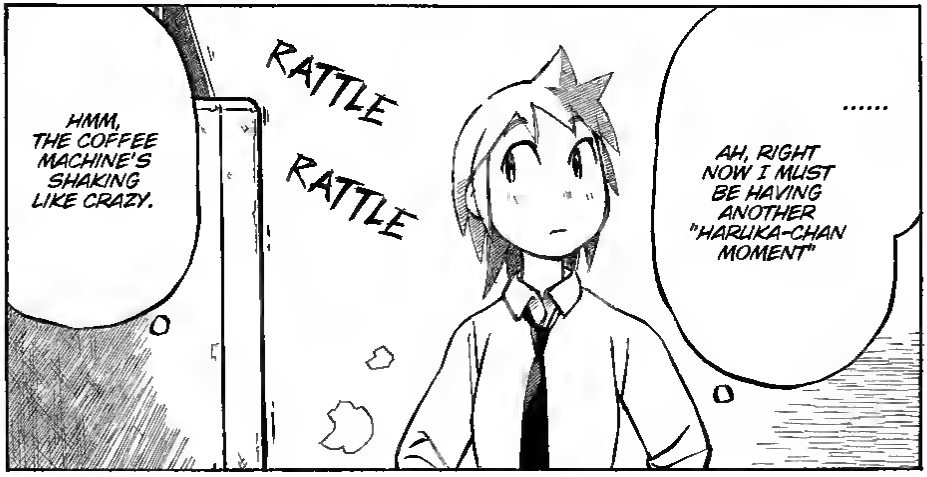
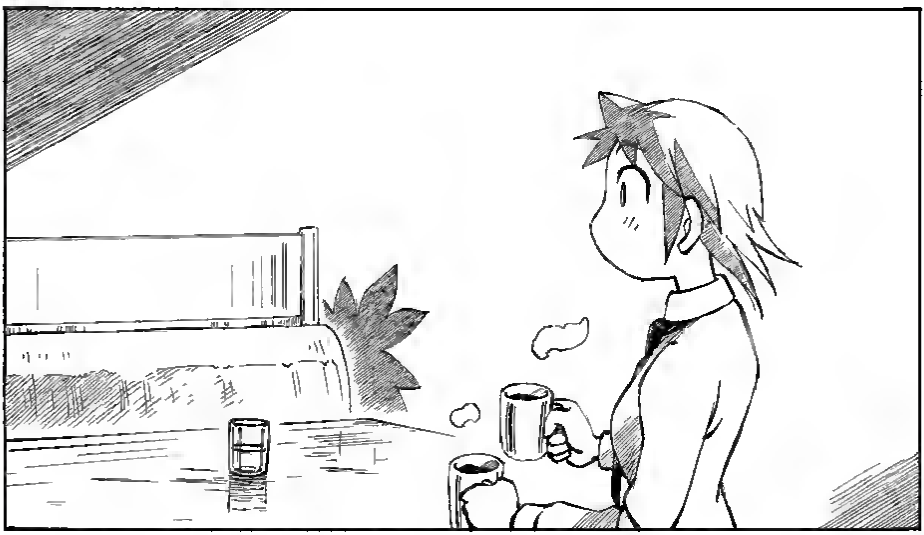

HMM, THE COFFEE MACHINE'S SHAKING LIKE CRAZY.
RATTLE
RATTLE
.....
AH, RIGHT NOW I MUST BE HAVING ANOTHER "HARUKA-CHAN MOMENT"



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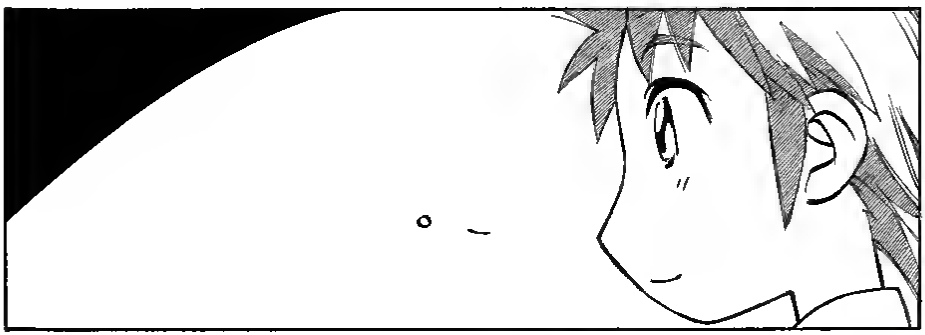

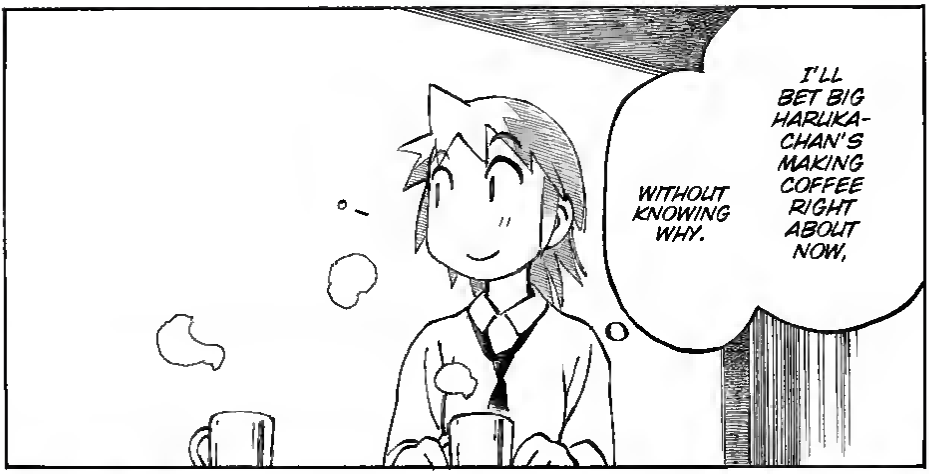
I'LL BET BIG HARUKA-CHAN'S MAKING COFFEE RIGHT ABOUT NOW,
WITHOUT KNOWING WHY.

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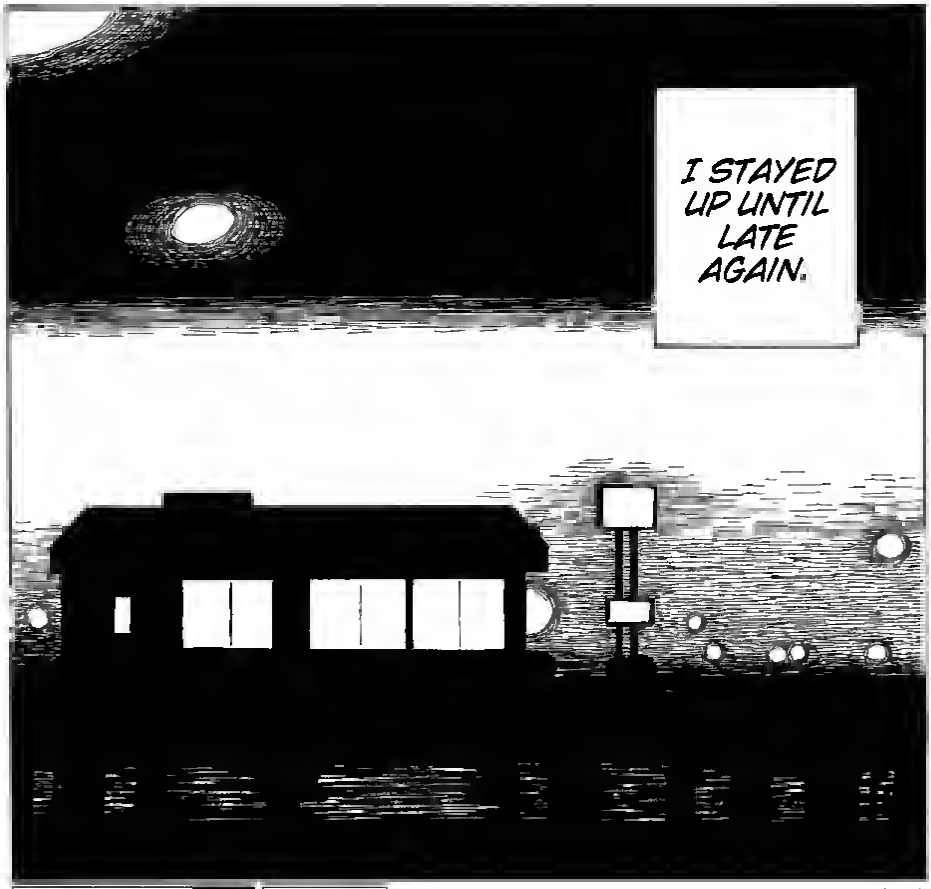
I STAYED UP UNTIL LATE AGAIN.

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